

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6045

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS LONDON 15562

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, UK, RH

SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN STATEMENT ON RHODESIA

1. IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE IN BLACKPOOL ON SEPTEMBER 28, PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN MADE THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA.

2. QUOTE: WITHOUT PRE-EMPTING OUR DEBATE NEXT THURSDAY, I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION BRIEFLY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON FRIDAY EVENING BY MR. SMITH OF HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE WITHIN THE TWO YEAR TIME SCALE THAT I LAID DOWN ON 22 MARCH LAST, COULD BE AN HISTORIC TURNING POINT IN THE
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FUTURE OF THE SUB-CONTINENT.

FOR BRITAIN, A SOLUTION IN RHODESIA ON THE BASIS OF MAJORITY RULE IS A DEBT OF HONOUR. FOR AFRICA IT IS A CONSTANT THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY.

I WOULD LIKE TO PUT ON RECORD MY THANKS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR HIS CHARACTERISTIC AND REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTION TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. WITHOUT THE DECISIVE INTERVENTION OF THE UNITED STATES I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A TURNABOUT IN THE ATTITUDE OF MR. SMITH.

IN THE LAST FEW DAYS I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE FOUR AFRICAN PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE THEMSELVES MADE A MASSIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THEIR RESPONSE TO MR. SMITH'S BROADCAST OF FRIDAY LAST HAS BEEN A TOUGH ONE. THAT IS NOT SURPRISING, BUT THE PRIZE WITHIN OUR GRASP IS AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITH A BLACK MAJORITY AND MAJORITY RULE WITHIN TWO YEARS. THAT MUST BE PREFERABLE TO AN INCREASINGLY VIOLENT ARMED STRUGGLE.

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT WANTS TO SEE THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT SET UP RAPIDLY, SAY WITHIN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS, AND WE WILL PLAY A FULL AND ACTIVE PART IN PROMOTING SUCH AN END. THE MEETING TO NEGOTIATE THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE HELD IN SALISBURY OR ELSEWHERE IN RHODESIA. WE ARE PREPARED TO BACK THE CONVENING OF NEGOTIATIONS IN ANY OTHER PLACE CONVENIENT TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

BUT THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IS THE RAPID ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. ONCE THAT HAS HAPPENED THERE CAN BE NO GOING BACK FOR THE SMITH REGIME. THE DIE WILL BE CAST. THERE WILL BE DIFFICULTIES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, BUT IF THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE SEEN THROUGH TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, THEN BRITAIN WILL HAVE DISCHARGED HER LAST COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN AFRICA WITH HONOUR. END QUOTE.

ARMSTRONG

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